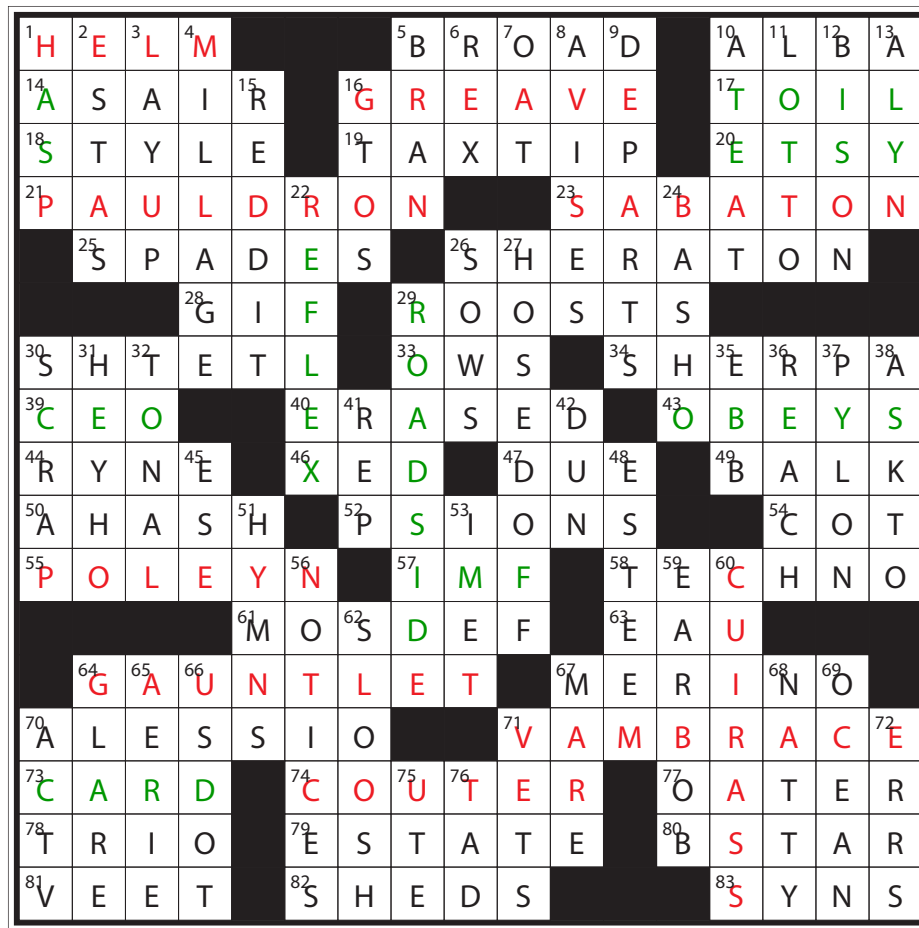


ANCIENT ARMOR SOLUTION - RETRO CHIC

The grid can be filled as shown below.



Entries highlighted in red are all pieces of armor. Their given clues are anagrams of synonyms for “wicked”; these begin with unique letters A-I, which provides an ordering. Each piece of armor protects a particular part of the body, and each of those body parts begins a clues. Initial letters of those clues’ answers (highlighted in green) spell the answer RETRO CHIC.

Abhorrent	PAULDRON	<u>Shoulder</u> locale	ROADSIDE
Baleful	GAUNTLET	<u>Hand</u> -fabricated merchandise purveyor	ETSY
Cruel	COUTER	<u>Elbow</u> grease	TOIL
Diabolic	POLEYN	<u>Knee</u> -jerk reaction	REFLEX
Evil-Minded	SABATON	<u>Toes</u> the line	OBEYS
Fiendish	HELM	<u>Head</u> honcho in a firm	CEO
Godless	CUIRASS	<u>Chest</u> -maker's hardware	HASP
Heinous	VAMBRACE	<u>Arm</u> of the U.N. dealing with finances	IMF
Infernal	GREAVE	<u>Shin</u> Lim prop	CARD